

5 March 1981
MSK-1003

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Seoul Bureau--February 1981

I. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. Another Soviet Far East regional radio was added to coverage during the month with the addition of the Krasnoyarsk Domestic Service newscast at 1140-1200 GMT. The Bureau's Russian coverage now consists of five stations--Krasnoyarsk, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, Ulan-Ude, Vladivostok and Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk--totaling some 3 hours of listening time a day. With the exception of Vladivostok, the Russian regional stations continue to yield little or no worthwhile material, with coverage of the four other stations producing a total of only 1,000 words for the month. Continuing efforts to monitor other regional stations--Blagoveshchensk, Chita, Irkutsk, Yakutsk--have been unsuccessful.
2. Coverage of Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME and Beijing Russian was returned to Okinawa on 9 February upon the return of their Russian monitor from annual leave. Reception of Beijing Russian casts continued to be extremely poor. The required Extel parts to print Cyrillic were received just before coverage of MONTSAME was shifted, and the agency's Russian casts were printed here with fair reception.

B. Lateral Services

As a special service, the Foreign Commercial Service (Department of Commerce) office in the Embassy has been allowed use of the Bureau's TELEX machine to send and receive messages--totaling about 10 a week--on a fully reimbursable basis. FCS secretaries punch their own items, so there is no impact on bureau personnel. The Bureau continues to pay the monthly recurring charges

for the TELEX machine, but since the ROK telecommunications authority doesn't itemize its TELEX bills, the FCS office pays the total charges for messages sent, including any the Bureau might send. Previously, FCS sent and received TELEX messages through ICA, but ICA's location several blocks away had made that a rather inconvenient arrangement.

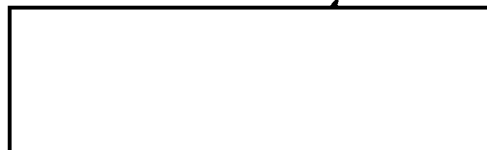
II. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

1. Recruiting began during the month to fill the Bureau's teletypist vacancy, under an exemption to the hiring freeze guidelines received from OMB. Processing has been completed on an applicant to fill the Bureau's Korean monitor vacancy once the hiring freeze is lifted. The candidate had placed second in the Bureau's recruiting effort last fall to fill a previous vacancy.
2. The State Department approved the redesignation of Seoul as an R&R post effective 15 February. Tokyo was confirmed as the designated R&R destination.

III. VISITS

1. Embassy Political Section officers Dennis Halpin and Isaac Pearson on 4 February for a briefing on Bureau operations and preview of DPRK TV tapes.
2. Gerald Breshnahan and Ronald Hirschboeck of the 524th Military Intelligence Battalion on 25 February for a briefing on Bureau Operations and discussion of lateral services.



Chief, Seoul Bureau, FBIS

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Attachments:

Production Reports

cc: Chief, 
Chief, Okinawa Bureau

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